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view to meeting the needs of the Federal services located in the ports and especially with a view to providing vessels that anchor therein with water, the federation shall always have a right to receive and distribute a given or proportional quantity of the drinking water which is to be supplied to the towns through the execution of the sanitation works that may be undertaken.

"Fourth. As a compensation for the benefit which the Federal Government is to receive by virtue of the foregoing clause or for any other benefit of a clear and direct character secured by the agreement with the State governments, the Federal executive may grant a pecuniary subsidy destined exclusively to meet the cost of the works contemplated, or the interest on said cost, provided that the total amount of said subsidy shall not exceed the sums devoted to the same object by the State government and the several city councils.

"Fifth. Machinery and material from abroad destined exclusively for the works in question shall enjoy the exemptions and franchises granted by Clause XXXIV of the contract for the port works of Vera Cruz, dated April 26, 1895. In like manner the sanitation work to be executed shall get the benefit of the franchises and exemptions granted by Clause III of the same contract, subject, however, to the rules to be laid down by the department of finance for the full protection of fiscal interests.

"Sixth. In order that the executive may make use of the powers conferred by the present decree, it is absolutely necessary that the following conditions be present:

"I. That, subject to the contract entered into, the plans for the sanitary works, as well as all the stipulations of the contract for their execution, shall be submitted for approval to the departments of communications and public works and of finance.

"II. That under the same contract the inspection and acceptance of the works shall appertain to the department of communications.

"III. That the pecuniary obligations contracted by the federation shall not be indefinite either in duration or amount.

"IV. That the federation shall be exonerated from any responsibility other than such as flows directly and legally from the obligations which it may assume by virtue of the rules laid down in the present authorization.

"V. That the decree with respect to the increase of the municipal dues from 1.50 to 2 per cent shall only be issued when all the contracts and arrangements assuring the execution of the works shall have been signed and registered."

Report from Progreso—Smallpox decreasing at Merida.

PROGRESO, MEXICO, June 9, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to make the following report for the week ended June 8, 1901:

From all causes there were reported 9 deaths, 2 being from malarial fever. There were no cases or deaths reported from contagious diseases.

There has been a marked improvement in the smallpox epidemic in Merida, only 4 or 5 deaths being reported for the week. A few weeks ago that number were reported daily.

Nothing of interest has occurred among the shipping or outgoing passengers.

Respectfully,

S. H. HODGSON,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Report from Merida—Yellow fever present.

[Telegram.]

MOBILE, ALA., June 18, 1901.

Medical agent Gay reports 1 death from yellow fever at Merida, Yucatan.

GOLDTHWAIT.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.